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Panther Reform

OAKLAND, Calif.—The Black Panther party has put down its guns and is working within the system, party co-founder Huey Newton said yesterday.

In an exclusive two-hour interview in his 650-a-month apartment in Oakland High-rise, the 29-year-old Panther Minister of Defense said the party still believes revolution is probably inevitable in the United States and may be violent.

But for the present, he said, the Panthers will "organize the community" by such possible means as picketing merchants to force them to contribute money or merchandise, and a new national voter registration drive which Newton said would extend to the Deep South.

He said the Panthers have rejected the "pick-up-the-gun-now" philosophy of a rival faction headed by Eldridge Cleaver, whom Newton called a "renegade scab traitor."

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